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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1940

To the Chairman and Members of the Northwich Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of placing before you my second Annual Report, being a report on the Health of your District for the year ended 31st December, 1940. Ministry of Health Circular No. 2314 dated the 26th March, 1941 requires this report to be prepared on the lines of my last year's report, namely, that it should be confined to essential matters affecting the Public Health of the District during the year.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	..	..	..	..	..	57,547 acres.
Population - Registrar-General's estimate of population mid-1940	..	..	..	..	..	30,030.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940)	..	..	..	..	..	8,714.
Rateable value	..	..	..	..	..	£152,807.
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	£600.

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	(Legitimate	439	225	214)	Birth rate per 1,000 of
	(Illegitimate	19	9	10)	the estimated resident
					population .. 15.25.
Stillbirths	(Legitimate	28	17	11)	Rate per 1,000 total
	(Illegitimate	-	-	-)	(live and still)
					births 57.61.
Deaths		374	195	179	Death rate per 1,000 of
					the estimated resident
					population .. 12.45.
					After adjustment by the
					Comparability
					Factor 12.70.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):-

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	-	-
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	1	2.05.
Total	1	2.05.

Death rate of infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	58.18.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	58.42.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	52.63.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	52.
" " Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	-
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	-
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	-

CAUSES OF DEATH - 1940.
(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables).

	M.	F.	Total.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid	-	-	-
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria	1	1	2
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	3	6
7. Other Tubercular Diseases	1	-	1
8. Syphilitic Diseases	1	1	2
9. Influenza	10	6	16
10. Measles	-	-	-
11. Ac. Polio-myel: and Polio-enceph:	-	1	1
12. Ac: inf: enceph:	-	1	1
13. Cancer of b:cav: & oesoph: (M). uterus (F).	6	3	9
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	4	5	9
15. Cancer of Breast	-	4	4
16. Cancer of all other sites	15	15	30
17. Diabetes	2	-	2
18. Intra-cran: vasc: lesions	19	17	36
19. Heart Diseases	44	47	91
20. Other Circulatory Diseases	4	5	9
21. Bronchitis	16	17	33
22. Pneumonia	19	6	25
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	1	4	5
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	1	3
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	-	1
26. Appendicitis	-	-	-
27. Other Digestive Diseases	3	7	10
28. Nephritis	6	5	11
29. Puer: & post-abortion: sepsis	-	-	-
30. Other Maternal Causes	-	1	1
31. Premature Birth	2	4	6
32. Congenital Debility & Malaformations	5	4	9
33. Suicide	2	-	2
34. Road Traffic Accidents	7	1	8
35. Other Violent Causes	7	3	10
36. All Other Causes	14	17	31
	195	179	374

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There is no change to report under this heading.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water - Twenty-seven samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination by the Inspector from mains and wells supplying the area. Unsatisfactory reports were received from the County Analyst in respect of the undernoted:-

(i) Crowton Village Well, with the result that the Council ordered its closure and provided an alternative supply by way of connection to existing mains in the vicinity.

(ii) Wells serving Rushton and Utkinton were also adversely reported upon, and it has not as yet been possible to provide a satisfactory alternative supply.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal - The drainage facilities of the Parishes of Rushton, Utkinton, Delamere, Oakmere, Wincham, Comberbach and Weaverham are still in need of improvement and the provision of adequate disposal works. Particular reference should be made of the inadequate drainage facilities serving the properties in Northwich Road, Weaverham.

Public Cleansing. - The routine work of refuse collection and cleansing of pail closets proceeded satisfactorily throughout the year. There was no extension of this service.

Salvage of materials for war purposes - The public cleansing staff have done admirable work in this connection and returns compare exceedingly favourable with those of other districts.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

SANITARY OFFICERS' (OUTSIDE LONDON) REGULATIONS.
1935. ARTICLE 27 (18).

Statement of Inspections made and Notices issued.

Nature of inspections made	Number	Informal Notices		Statutory Notices	
		Issued	Complied with	Issued	Complied with
1. Dwelling Houses (General Inspection)	147	40	29	-	-
2. Dwelling Houses (Overcrowding)	31	19	17	-	-
3. Moveable Dwellings	7	-	-	-	-
4. Sanitary Accommodation to Dwellings	15	9	7	-	-
5. Drainage, Septic Tanks and Cesspools	98	45	35	-	-
6. Ditches and Watercourses	6	3	2	-	-
7. Offensive Accumulations	4	2	2	-	-
8. Keeping of Animals	-	-	-	-	-
9. Provision of Ashbins	23	17	14	-	-
10. Supervision of Refuse Collection	283	-	-	-	-
11. Supervision of Refuse Tips	78	-	-	-	-
12. Slaughterhouses	52	-	-	-	-
13. Bakehouses and other places where food is prepared	142	2	2	-	-
14. Dairies and Cowsheds	37	8	8	-	-
15. Factories etc.	7	2	2	-	-
16. Protection and Sampling of Water Supplies	29	2	2	-	-
17. Canal Boats	-	-	-	-	-
18. Infectious Diseases, Investigations & Disinfections	238	-	-	-	-
19. Schools, Inspection and Disinfection	134	-	-	-	-
20. Disinfestation of Premises	6	1	1	-	-
21. Deratisation of Premises	2	1	1	-	-
22. Smoke Observations	-	-	-	-	-
23. Miscellaneous	6	4	4	-	-
TOTALS	1,345	155	126	-	-

FACTORIES INSPECTION.

Premises	No. of inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	7	2	-
Factories without mechanical power	-	-	-
Other premises	-	-	-
Totals	7	2	-

Defects found in Factories:-

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Want of cleanliness	2	2	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective Drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-
(Insufficient Unsuitable or defective. Not separate for sexes)	-	-	-	-
Other offences	-	-	-	-
Total	2	2	-	-

Outworkers: There are no outworkers premises in this district.

SECTION D.HOUSING.

Seven houses were demolished during the year, five as a result of formal action taken in 1938, and two by informal action.

SECTION E.FOOD AND MEAT INSPECTION.

(a) Milk - During the year seven samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination and four samples for the presence of tubercle bacilli. All samples were reported as satisfactory.

(b) Meat - There are twenty-three slaughterhouses licensed under Section 57 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Owing to the operation of the undernoted Ministry of Food Orders:-

S.R. & O. 41, 1940 - "Livestock Restriction of Slaughtering",
January 13th, 1940.

S.R. & O. 1856, 1940 - "Livestock Restriction of Slaughtering",
October, 19th 1940.

no slaughtering is permitted in any of these.

By mutual arrangement the Rural Meat Inspectors assist the Northwich Urban Inspectors at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse, Winnington, as and when their services are required.

Under Section 3 of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, forty-four slaughtermen hold licences to slaughter.

Under the Diseases of Animals Acts, fifty suspected cases of Anthrax were reported, none of which were confirmed by the Veterinary Surgeons of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Tuberculosis Order, 1938. Under this Order two carcasses were examined both of which were affected by generalised tuberculosis and were condemned.

(c) Routine examination of other Foods. During the year 142 shops and food preparing premises were visited.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

(1) Apart from the occurrence of an outbreak of Measles and the incidence of 9 cases of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, the year 1940 passed off well. The year showed a reduction in the number of Scarlet Fever cases and only a slight increase in Diphtheria in spite of the trials of war time and the wholesale movements of troops and evacuated children into the District. The Isolation Hospital accommodation proved to be adequate to deal with all Infectious Diseases needing Institutional treatment during the year.

The end of 1940 saw a successful joint "drive" with the other three Mid-Cheshire Local Authorities against Diphtheria and thanks to the excellent help received from the Headmasters of Elementary and Secondary Schools in the District, the co-operation of the Medical Practitioners, the County Health Department and the local Press, excellent progress was made, and the actual protective treatment commenced on a big scale early in January 1941. The fact that the Scheme was a joint effort serving the needs of four independent County Districts led to much economy of time and effort.

Specimens submitted for Bacteriological Examination.

Examined for	Number submitted	Result	
		Positive	Negative
Diphtheria Bacilli	102	9	93
Haemolytic Streptococci	2	-	2
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	4	-	4
Typhoid Bacilli	4	1	3
Food Poisoning	1	-	1
Dysentery	1	-	1

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis),
during the year 1940.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	71	64	-
Diphtheria	39	29	2
Enteric Fever	1	1	-
Pneumonia	33	3	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	-
Erysipelas	6	3	-
Measles	684	9	-
Whooping Cough	12	1	-
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	9	9	-

(2) TUBERCULOSIS.

The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS.
New Cases and Mortality during 1940.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	-
5 - 15 "	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	-
15 - 25 "	2	5	1	1	-	1	1	-
25 - 35 "	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45 "	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55 "	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 - 65 "	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Totals	10	6	3	7	3	3	1	-

Number of patients on register at 31.12.39 - 183.

Number of patients on register at 31.12.40 - 197.

43 Sputum specimens were examined at the County Council's Laboratory during the year; five being reported on as positive.

The practice of home disinfection in cases of Infectious Diseases including Tuberculosis was continued; all the Schools in the District were disinfected twice during the year.

I would like to say in closing this report how much I value and appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

Yours faithfully,

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1941.